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RUSSIAN JEWRY WILL HAVE NO MATZOTH; GOLDMANN BLASTS SOVIET GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry will be without matzoth this Passover again, according to a cable received here from Moscow from authentic sources. The cable said that Moscow bakeries are neither prepared for the baking of matzoth nor have they received any Passover flour rations as yet. Unless the Soviet authorities permit Passover food from abroad, there will be no matzoth in the Soviet Union this year, the cable emphasized.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, addressing today the opening session of the General Zionist Council, said he received a report revealing that Chief Rabbi J. L. Levin of Moscow informed the members of his synagogue last week that matzoth will not be available in the Soviet Union this year. "This change in the tradition of Jewish life under the Soviet regime for decades, during which matzoth were previously provided, points to the tendencies of the present Soviet rulers with regard to the Jewish problem," Dr. Goldmann stated.

The Soviet Government, Dr. Goldmann stressed, must realize that the Jewish people which lost a third of its number in the present generation cannot and will not be able to renounce 3,000,000 Jews who, although not threatened by physical extermination, face the serious danger of spiritual, religious and national assimilation.

If the Soviet Government is sincerely opposed to anti-Semitism, its duty is to halt anti-Jewish publicity which is replete with dangers for Soviet Jewry, the leader of the world Zionist movement declared. "The Soviet Government cannot deny the fact that in comparison with other national minorities and religions in the Soviet Union there is a blatant discrimination against Soviet Jewry," he emphasized.

Senate Told of 'Accelerated Harassment' of Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, March 18. (JTA) -- Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., New Jersey Democrat, today in a Senate speech invited attention of fellow Senators to a call by the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A. for more vigorous action against Soviet anti-Semitism. The Senator pointed out that in the last year and a half there has developed "accelerated harassment of Russian Jews." He cited "the singling out of Jews for discriminatory treatment" in the Soviet Union.

"Khrushchev's cynical denials, while official Soviet machinery pushes inexorably toward the extinction of Jewish cultural life had little effect on the reprehensible actions of Russian officials and publications," the Senator said, "the closing of synagogues and the incidence of so-called economic crimes, punishable by death, are the most obvious facets of the sinister pattern of Soviet anti-Semitism." He quoted extensive material on Soviet anti-Semitism.

Synagogue Council Wants Moscow Chief Rabbi to Visit U. S.

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America, composed of all rabbinical and lay organizations of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewry in the United States, announced here today that it has officially extended an invitation to Rabbi Jehuda Levin, Chief Rabbi of Moscow's Great Synagogue, for a visit to this country with a delegation of other Jewish religious leaders from the USSR. It is up to the Soviet authorities to permit Rabbi Levin to accept this invitation.

The announcement was made by Rabbi Theodore L. Adams, chairman of the Council's international affairs commission, at a reception in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to 10 high Christian religious dignitaries from the Soviet Union, headed by Archbishop Nikodim of the Russian Orthodox Church. The top Russian clergymen are in this country as guests of the National Council of Churches.

During the reception, attended by more than 50 of America's top rabbinical leaders, as well as by leaders of the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress, about two hours of questioning took place in which rabbis asked the visitors about the lack of an overall, Jewish-religious organization of Russian Jewry, the prohibition against matzoth, the lack of Hebrew Bibles and prayer books, the closing of many synagogues, and the Soviet refusal to permit Jews to emigrate for purposes of family reunification.

Archbishop Nikodim, acting as spokesman for the group, insisted in every instance that the Soviet laws permit equality for all religions. He said he will relay the questions to Rabbi Levin, in Moscow, when they meet there again.

ISRAEL CONVEYS CONCERN TO U.S. OVER EGYPT'S NON-CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- Israel's grave concern over the non-conventional weapons now being developed in Egypt by German scientists was conveyed today to the United States Government by Foreign Minister Golda Meir, who invited the American Ambassador, Walworth Barbour, for a talk on this subject.

At the same time it was indicated here today that the Israel Government will not hesitate to make public "vast and startling" information about foreign participation in Egypt's program of producing rockets, missiles and non-conventional weapons, if Switzerland decides to put on trial the Israeli arrested there for allegedly "threatening" a German scientist working on this Egyptian program.

The Israeli, thus far unnamed by the Swiss authorities, was arrested at a hotel in Basle two weeks ago, along with an Austrian scientist. Swiss authorities have, thus far, not told the Israel Ambassador at Berne, Shmuel Bentsur, when he might see the Israeli, but have indicated that such a confrontation will be arranged "soon."

Israelis are understood to hope that the matter will be settled by the Swiss on the administrative level. However, it was indicated that, if the Israeli is brought to trial, the revelations about the Egyptian armament program, involving non-conventional weapons, may follow. Such disclosures, it was hinted, would not be related to German quarters only but also to non-German participation in the Egyptian program.

The Foreign Ministry denied press reports today that it had sent notes to various governments about the Egyptian project for development of the non-conventional weapons. However, it was intimated that Israel's anxiety over the matter has been conveyed in recent months to a number of Governments, including West German authorities at Bonn.

It was understood that the Egyptian program includes the perfection and production of weapons that might use atomic, chemical gas and bacteriological warheads.

Package Received by Scientist in Egypt Explodes; Sent from Germany

TEL AVIV, March 18. (JTA) -- A package containing an explosive device which blew up and blinded his secretary was received in Egypt by Dr. Wolfgang Pflitz, a German member of the team of scientists working on the development of non-conventional weapons being produced by the Cairo Government, it was revealed here today. The disclosure was made in a report from Germany to Yediot Achronoth, a popular evening newspaper here.

According to the report, Dr. Pflitz was one of the heads of the German teams of scientists which included Dr. Eugen Saenger and Prof. Jens Goerke. The latter's daughter, Miss Heidi Goerke, was revealed yesterday as having entrapped an unidentified Israeli and an Austrian, arrested by Swiss authorities at Basle, for allegedly "threatening" Dr. Goerke.

The explosive device was reportedly sent to Dr. Pflitz, in Cairo, from Hamburg, Germany. He is now engaged in naval missile research in Cairo. Dr. Pflitz's secretary was blinded when she opened the parcel, but he was unhurt, according to the report.

J.D.C. SHIPS MATZOTH FOR NEEDY JEWS IN NINE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

GENEVA, March 18. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has shipped 257,000 pounds of matzoth for Passover this year to nine European centers, to enable needy Jews to properly observe the holiday, it was reported here today by Charles Jordan, overseas director-general of the JDC. Last year, a total of 185,000 pounds of matzoth was distributed by the organization.

All of the 72,000 pounds increase over last year's total went to France, where the country's Jewish population increased by 120,000 persons during the past year, mostly through migration from Algeria and other North African countries.

In all, more than 120,000 persons will benefit from special Passover allocations made by the JDC, Mr. Jordan said. In addition to providing matzoth in Europe, the JDC is making special grants to 60,000 Jews in Algeria, Iran, Morocco and Tunisia to enable them to purchase matzoth locally.

The money received from the sale of matzoth is a major item in the income of the Polish religious community. Matzoth for needy Jews in Poland are purchased from the religious community by the JDC and distributed to approximately 7,000 persons in European countries. Countries to which the JDC made direct shipments of matzoth this year are Albania, Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Yugoslavia.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE APPROVES 375,000,000-POUND BUDGET FOR YEAR

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive plenary today approved the Agency's 1963-64 budget, totaling 375,000,000 pounds (\$125,000,000). The executive went on record as regarding as not final a decision by the Israel Government not to participate in the Agency's settlement budget which, hitherto, has amounted to 40,000,000 pounds,

GERMANY CLARIFIES STAND ON PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS IN YUGOSLAVIA

BCNN, March 18. (JTA) -- The West German Government has offered an increase in payments to victims in Yugoslavia of Nazi medical atrocities, it was disclosed here today.

The offer was reported in connection with a West German Foreign Office diplomatic note to Yugoslavia in which West Germany said it was refusing to make indemnification payments to that country as long as efforts to restore friendly relations between the two countries remained without success.

TWO MORE EX-NAZI OFFICERS CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS IN PINSK

BONN, March 18. (JTA) -- The public prosecutor's office here disclosed today that it is investigating the cases of two more former SS officers charged with the wartime murder in August 1941 of some 4,500 Jews in Nazi-occupied Pinsk. The names of the two men were not disclosed.

A former SS guard at the Chelmno murder camp in Nazi-occupied Poland declared today at his trial, "I damn the day when I joined this wretched commando unit," Alois Haefle, one of the 12 SS guards charged with complicity in the wartime slaughter of 180,000 Jewish men, women and children in the camp near Poznan, made that statement after the prosecutor asked for a term of life imprisonment at hard labor for him.

Similar sentences were asked for Gustav Laabs, 60, Walter Burmeister, 56, and Karl Heintz, 50. Lesser terms at hard labor were demanded for the other defendants. The prosecutor summed up the testimony with the charge that the consciences of the 12 former SS guards "were kept silent by order." The defense attorneys for the other 11 defendants will make their pleas this week when a verdict is expected.

EVANGELICAL CHURCHES IN GERMANY URGE MORE ATTENTION TO NAZI TRIALS

BIELEFELD, W. Germany, March 18. (JTA) -- The Council of the Evangelical Church in West Germany issued a public warning to Germans today that "Christians must not stay away from and be indifferent to the trials involving Nazi crimes" taking place in West Germany.

The Council said that the courts had to do their duty and added that it had to be recognized that "a part" of the German people "lack understanding in this respect." The statement also asserted that Nazi crimes had to be discussed in the country's schools and in religious education and that young Germans "had to become aware that this subject did not concern only the past."

Dr. Hermann Dietzfelbinger, Evangelical Bishop of Bavaria, stressed that "if we meet in honesty the question of guilt (for the excesses of the Nazi regime) we shall help in the recovery of our people." He declared that "as Christians and as a people, we are bound to our past" and expressed regret that "there has been so little solidarity in respect of our guilt."

GERMANY REPORTS SIX DESECRATIONS OF JEWISH CEMETERIES DURING PAST YEAR

BONN, March 18. (JTA) -- Details of the recent West German Interior Ministry report on extreme right-wing and anti-Semitic tendencies in the federal republic during 1962 disclosed today that there were six desecrations of Jewish cemeteries during the past year.

One of the desecrations, in Cella, is still being investigated, the report showed. It also listed a number of minor anti-Semitic offenses and smearings.

NAZI PHYSICIAN WHO STERILIZED JEWISH WOMEN HELD POST IN GHANA

HAIFA, March 18. (JTA) -- The Israeli Organization of Former Nazi Prisoners has appealed to the Government of Ghana to open proceedings against Dr. Horst Schumann, a former Nazi physician charged with having assisted Dr. Josef Mengele, the infamous "selection doctor" of the Auschwitz death camp, it was revealed here today. He is accused of having aided Dr. Mengele in sterilization experiments on Jewish women prisoners at Auschwitz.

Dr. Schumann fled from Germany after World War II, was traced to Sudan, and recently showed up in Accra, capital of Ghana, where he is now reportedly a senior medical officer in Ghana's National Health Service. A reply from the Ghanaian Government has indicated that the Accra authorities are considering the petition.

ADMIRAL KAHN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL JEWISH CONSISTORY OF FRANCE

PARIS, March 18. (JTA) -- Admiral Louis Kahn was elected president of the Central Consistory of France, the leading religious body of French Jews. Admiral Kahn is deputy president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle.

JEWISH GROUPS SEEK BROADENED ADMISSION OF IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

OTTAWA, March 18. (JTA) -- Richard A. Bell, Canadian Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, had under consideration here today a series of recommendations for broadening of admission of immigrants to this country, submitted by representatives of leading Jewish organizations in this country.

The recommendations proposed that immigrants from Morocco and Tunisia be admitted on an occupational basis, regardless of whether they had close relatives in this country; that easing of admission be granted to immigrants from France who have relatives of the first degree in Canada; and extension of admissible categories from Rumania and Poland.

The recommendations also proposed relaxation of the definition of refugee status; admission of Jewish immigrants from Egypt and those now residing in Western Europe; and immigration of former Algerians. The delegation to the Dominion office included H. Solway and A. Lief, members of the national executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress; and representatives of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services and the United Jewish Relief Agencies.

CHASSIDIC RABBI BACKS BANNING OF PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOSTON, March 18. (JTA) -- A statement strongly supporting last year's U.S. Supreme Court decision banning official prayer in the public schools was issued here today by the Bostoner Rebbe, Rabbi Levi I. Horowitz, spiritual leader of the New England Chassidic Center and chairman of the commission on religious practices of the Massachusetts Council of Rabbis.

Attacks against Jews who support the High Tribunal's ruling, and their equation with atheists, should not obscure the issue, Rabbi Horowitz declared. Those who uphold the Supreme Court's decision, he stated, "may be just as religious as those who oppose it, and have the additional advantage of upholding the great American tradition of separation of church and state."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE NAMES HEAD FOR DRIVE IN WELFARE FUNDS

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) -- Philip E. Hoffman, of West Orange, N.J., a prominent attorney and business executive, has been appointed chairman of the campaign cabinet of the national welfare fund cities division of the American Jewish Committee's nationwide appeal for Human Relations, it was announced here today by A. M. Sonnabend, Committee president and national general chairman of the Appeal. The American Jewish Committee raises the funds for its diversified human relations program through its Appeal for Human Relations. The 1963 Appeal goal is \$3,767,000.

Mr. Hoffman is a founder of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, a member of the national council of the Joint Distribution Committee and of the board of trustees and executive and allocation committees of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County. He is chairman of the Community Relations Committee of Essex County. A member of Phi Beta Kappa at Dartmouth, and member of the Law Journal while at Yale Law School, Mr. Hoffman serves on the board of directors of several business and real estate corporations.

NATIONAL BAR MITZVAH CLUB FOR JEWISH YOUNGSTERS FORMED IN U.S.

NEW YORK, March 18. (JTA) - The establishment of a new organization to enable Jewish youngsters to make special pilgrimages to Israel was announced here today. Known as the National Bar Mitzvah Club, it is the first of its kind in the United States and is headed by Rabbi Harry Halpern, of Brooklyn.

Rabbi Halpern, a former chairman of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, said that the club is devoted "to making the religious ceremonies of Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah more meaningful experiences through pilgrimages to Israel." He explained that Jewish youngsters become eligible for membership in the National Bar Mitzvah Club at the age of 13. Funds for a member's trip and summer long stay in Israel are derived from membership dues, paid over a three-year period.

The youngsters go to Israel when they become 16. Vice-chairman of the Club is Jules Freed, chairman of the Jewish Education Committee of New York. Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel-American Section, Inc., is treasurer. Secretary is Avraham Schenker, deputy member of the Jewish Agency executive. Mrs. Beatrice G. Weiss is executive director.

FOREST HONORING CHILE'S NOBEL PRIZE WINNER POET PLANTED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 18. (JTA) -- A forest honoring Chile's national poet, the late Gabriel Mistral, was planted here today in the Hills of Adullam, in the presence of members of the Cabinet, senior Government officials and Chilean diplomats. Chilean Ambassador Eugenio Palacios expressed deep gratification at Israel's tribute to the work of Mistral. She was the first Latin American poet to earn the Nobel Prize for literature.